

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 5-11 are currently pending in the instant application. A complete listing of the claims as currently pending has been provided hereinabove for the Examiner's convenience. However, no claims have been amended by way of this response. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of the receipt of the certified copy of the corresponding priority document for the present application.

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the Examiner's approval and receipt of the three sheets of formal drawings filed on September 22, 2003.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minoura (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,365) in view of Van de Ven (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,162). Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minoura in view of Van de Ven. Claims 7-10 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minoura in view of Van de Ven, and further in view of Langille (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,346). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Specifically, Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the unique combination of elements of the claimed invention of claim 1, including the feature(s) of “a Fresnel field lens, said Fresnel field lens being located on an optical path of the reflected beam from the reflective mirror to receive and converge the reflected beams coming out of an outgoing surface; a diffusive plate, said diffusive plate being located on the optical path of the outgoing beams from the Fresnel field lens to display the image contained in the beams and to adjust the view angle and gain of the image; and a diffuser, *said diffuser being located on the Fresnel*

field lens on the side of the reflective mirror to scatter the beams from the reflective mirror and the multiple internal reflection beams inside the Fresnel field lens; and wherein the thickness of the Fresnel lens is decreased so that the multiple internal reflection beams inside the Fresnel lens coincide with the original beams.” (emphasis added) Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner's interpretation of the prior art of record is respectfully traversed. Specifically, Applicants submit that the Examiner has misinterpreted the alleged teachings of the prior art of record. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The following information is offered to assist the Examiner in better understanding the claimed invention and/or the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art of record. The Examiner has admitted that Minoura et al. fails to teach or suggest reducing the Fresnel lens in order to eliminate any ghost images. Although the Examiner has relied upon the prior art of record to attempt to overcome these shortcomings, Applicants submit that the Van De Ven reference does not teach or suggest the modification advanced by the Examiner.

For example, Applicants have described the three basic types of ghost images (see page 1, line 20 through page 2, line 12 of the present application). As in the claimed invention, Minoura et al. attempts to overcome the second and third types of ghost images (see page 1, line 20 through page 2, line 12) by way of a diffuser. However, as admitted by the Examiner, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Minoura et al. reference to attempt to eliminate the first type of ghost image described by Applicants.

In the claimed invention, the Fresnel lens is specifically made thinner to eliminate the first type of ghost image (page 4, line 23 through page 5, lines 7 and FIG. 5). Although the Examiner alleges that Van De Ven teaches or suggests modifying Minoura et al. to include this unique feature of the claimed invention, the Examiner's interpretation of the Van De Ven reference is improper.

In Van De Ven et al., e.g., FIG. 2b, a structure is described and shown that is different than the claimed invention. In col. 3, lines 40-47, "FIG. 2(b) shows a part of an embodiment of a Fresnel structure as used in a projection screen according to the invention. In the Fresnel structure of the projection screen according to the invention, the Fresnel facets 7 are divided into a first part 11 which encloses an angle Ψ with the plane of the screen and a second,

contiguous part 13 which is substantially parallel to the plane of the screen. The size of the second part is determined by the size of the blind space.” Therefore, Van De Ven et al. change the angle Ψ of the first part by making the first part steeper and by making the blind spaces 13 on the top. However, Applicants submit that this is overlooked by the Examiner, e.g., since these alterations destroy the shape of the Fresnel structure and certainly make it more difficult to produce the structure of Van De Ven et al.

In contrast, the claimed invention provides a Fresnel lens that is thinner without changing the shape of the Fresnel structure. Therefore, all three types of ghost images are eliminated while simultaneously providing a relatively easy to produce structure. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn and the present application should be passed to Issue.

As to the Examiner’s allegations that several features of the claimed invention fail to provide any unique or beneficial effects (see page 3 of the Office Action), the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention clearly provide an easily manufactured structure that advantageously eliminates the three types of ghost images described in the present application.

With respect to claim 5, Applicants have identified a unique, beneficial result of using a Fresnel lens having a thickness of smaller than 0.5mm, i.e.,

elimination of both the first and the second types of ghost images. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above discussion of the patents relied upon by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that these documents, either in combination together or standing alone, fail to teach or suggest the invention as is set forth by the claims of the instant application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections are respectfully requested. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in a condition for allowance.

As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of- the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

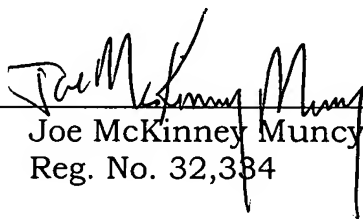
All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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